

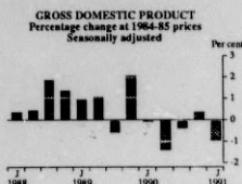
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 22 August 1991

The week in statistics ...

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Economy declines in June quarter



Constant price gross domestic product (GDP) fell 1.0 per cent in June quarter 1991.

Constant price gross domestic product has declined in four of the last five quarters and is 2.4 per cent lower than in June quarter 1990.

Major features of the expenditure aggregates this quarter include:

- modest growth in private final consumption expenditure;
- another fall in private gross fixed capital expenditure;
- a small build-up in private non-farm stocks;
- a decline in farm stocks;
- higher exports; and
- growth in imports following two successive quarterly declines.

Private final consumption expenditure, which has been very flat in recent quarters, showed some tentative signs of recovery in June quarter with an increase of 0.8 per cent. Expenditure on goods has declined in real terms over the past year, but expenditure on services has continued to grow.

Private gross fixed capital expenditure declined by 4.7 per cent in June quarter, the seventh fall in this aggregate over the last eight quarters. This aggregate is now 24.5 per cent below the peak in private investment in June quarter 1989. Public gross fixed capital expenditure rose by 2.6 per cent from the low level recorded in March quarter 1991, when Qantas sold a number of second-hand aircraft overseas.

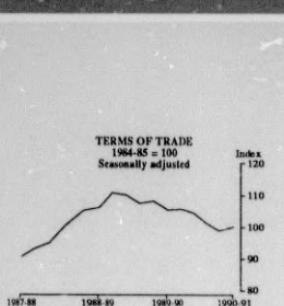
Private non-farm stocks increased by \$47 million in June quarter following a decline of \$137 million in March quarter 1991. Consequently, private non-farm stocks made a small positive contribution to growth in GDP in the June quarter of 0.3 percentage points.

Public marketing authority stocks increased by only \$55 million in June quarter following seven quarters in which significant increases were recorded, with the total increase since the end of June quarter 1989 now being just over \$2,900 million.

Farm stocks declined by \$355 million in June quarter following a rise of \$110 million in March quarter. Consequently farm stocks made a negative contribution to growth in GDP in June quarter of 0.7 percentage points. A big rundown in stocks of wool held by bodies other than the Australian Wool Corporation was the main cause of this decline.

Exports of goods and services rose 4.7 per cent in June quarter making a positive contribution to growth in GDP of 1.0 percentage point. Major contributions to this increase came from wool and cotton. Imports of goods and services largely offset the contribution from exports by growing 3.5 per cent in June quarter, thereby making a negative contribution to growth in GDP of 0.7 percentage points. Major increases were recorded for office machines and computer equipment.

Continued ...



Initial estimates show that Australia's terms of trade rose 1.2 per cent in June quarter, but they have fallen by 9.6 per cent from the peak reached in March quarter 1989. The imports to sales ratio rose to 0.126 from 0.119 in March quarter. The stocks to sales ratio increased marginally to 0.554 from 0.551 in March quarter 1991.

In current price seasonally adjusted terms, wages, salaries and supplements fell by 2.3 per cent in June quarter 1991, the first decrease in this aggregate since June quarter 1983. Average earnings per wage and salary earner declined by 1.5 per cent, while the number of employed wage and salary earners declined by 0.8 per cent. The gross operating surplus of private corporate trading enterprises fell 1.9 per cent following the large fall of 7.5 per cent in the previous quarter.

MAIN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AGGREGATES, JUNE QUARTER 1991

Seasonally adjusted estimates at average 1984-85 prices

Percentage change

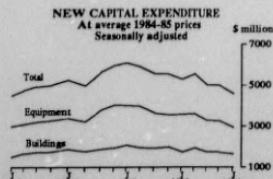
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Final consumption expenditure --		
Private	0.8	0.8
Government	-2.6	2.9
Gross fixed capital expenditure	-2.7	-11.1
Gross national expenditure	-1.3	-4.7
Exports of goods and services	4.7	14.8
Imports of goods and services	3.5	1.7
Gross domestic product	-1.0	-2.4
Gross farm product	4.8	8.8
Gross non-farm product	-1.2	-2.8

(Unless otherwise indicated these comments are based on seasonally adjusted constant price estimates.) For further information, order the publication Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure (5206.0), or contact Paul Curran on (06) 252 6708.

New capital expenditure continues to decline in the June quarter

New capital expenditure in June quarter 1991 declined by 8 per cent, seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices, over the March quarter. This was the third consecutive fall in new capital expenditure and the seventh decline in the last eight quarters. Preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for the June quarter show that new private capital spending is now 13 per cent below the level of one year earlier, at 1984-85 prices.

Actual new capital expenditure for the 1990-91 financial year is estimated to be \$26,462 million. This represents a fall of 10 per cent from the 1989-90 estimate, at average 1984-85 prices.



The contributions to the decline of spending on buildings and equipment is shown in the table.

Type of asset	NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
	Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices	
	Percentage change	
Buildings and structures	From March 1991 to June 1991	From June 1990 to June 1991
Equipment, plant and machinery	-5	-5
Total new capital expenditure	-10	-18
	-8	-13

The latest estimate of expected new capital expenditure for 1991-92 is \$23,990 million. If this expectation is realised it would result in a decline of 9 per cent over the latest 1990-91 estimate, with expenditure on buildings and structures declining by 9 per cent and expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery declining by 10 per cent. Expectations derived from June quarter surveys have historically understated actual expenditure. However in the last two years, June survey estimates have increasingly overstated the actual outcome. This reversal of historical patterns makes difficult the interpretation of the likely outcome for 1991-92.

For further information, order the publication Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Preliminary (5625.0), or contact Jack Brzozowski on (06) 252 5611.

Housing directory updated

The updated and refined second edition of the *Directory of Housing Related Statistics* is now available. It provides those interested in housing issues or policy with a simple means of finding relevant statistics.

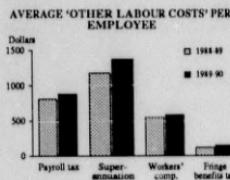
While there is a wealth of data available on housing, people have often been unaware of what exists, where to find it, and who to ask about the data. The Directory describes the publicly available data, their scope and sources. Besides its detailed table of contents and the directory entries themselves, it has a list of contributors, a list of relevant publications, and a subject index.

Each entry gives details of the particular data collection, the name of the organisation or person offering the service, and full contact details. It tells the purpose of the collection, the geographic area covered, and both the frequency and method of collection. Price details and the contact person's direct telephone and facsimile numbers are also included.

The second edition of the *Directory of Housing Related Statistics* has 148 entries from 52 organisations or individuals.

For further information, order the publication Directory of Housing Related Statistics (1118.0), or contact James Ashburner on (06) 252 6867.

Increased super cover reflected in higher labour costs



The average cost of employing labour in Australia rose from \$25,611 in 1988-89 to \$27,777 in 1989-90, an increase of 8.5 per cent, with the main non-earnings contributor being the spread of superannuation.

Movements in labour cost items were:

- earnings up 8.1 per cent to \$24,709;
- payroll tax up 8.5 per cent to \$904;
- superannuation up 15.7 per cent to \$1,391;
- workers' compensation up 5.6 per cent to \$605; and
- fringe benefits tax up 19.9 per cent to \$169.

As the table below shows, the construction industry saw the greatest increase with costs per employee increasing by 19.2 per cent to \$33,928, while mining continued to have the highest such costs at \$50,285.

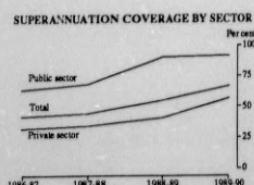
MAJOR LABOUR COSTS: AVERAGE COSTS PER EMPLOYEE

Industry	1988-89 \$	1989-90 \$	Percentage change
Construction	28,458	33,928	19.2
Finance, property and business services	27,791	32,066	15.4
Electricity, gas and water	35,535	39,403	10.9
Wholesale and retail trade	19,378	21,029	8.5
Manufacturing	28,457	30,809	8.3
Mining	46,525	50,285	8.1
Community services	25,487	27,109	6.4
Public administration and defence	29,152	30,923	6.1
Recreation, personal and other services	15,513	16,099	3.8
Transport, storage and communication	32,548	33,470	2.8
<i>All industries</i>	25,611	27,777	8.5

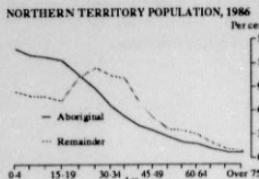
The spread of superannuation saw the percentage of employees covered by superannuation rising from 54.8 per cent in 1988-89 to 66.8 per cent in 1989-90.

Superannuation coverage in the private sector rose significantly from 40.7 per cent in 1988-89 to 56.8 per cent in 1989-90. As a result of this increase, private sector superannuation costs per employee covered fell by 9.5 per cent to \$1,551 in 1989-90 from \$1,713 in 1988-89. The industries which recorded the largest increase in superannuation coverage were community services up 22.8 per cent (to 60.9% covered) and wholesale and retail trade up 19.7 per cent (to 47.8% covered).

Superannuation coverage in the public sector rose only slightly from 90.4 per cent in 1988-89 to 91.6 per cent in 1989-90. Tasmania reported the highest level of superannuation coverage (97.1%) and Western Australia reported the lowest level (73.4%).



Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory



More than half of the Aboriginal population of the Northern Territory is below the age of 20, compared with 31 per cent within that age group in the rest of the Territory population.

This high proportion of young people exists despite an infant mortality rate among Aboriginal Territorians of 28.7 per thousand live births — three times the national average.

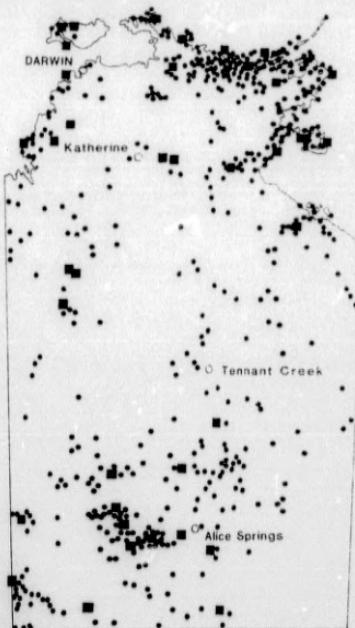
These are among many key findings of the first comprehensive statistical picture of Northern Territory Aboriginal people, who themselves make up 22 per cent of the Territory population.

Aboriginal People in the Northern Territory, released recently, is designed to give policy makers and researchers a full contemporary description of the Territory's

Aboriginal people. It is based on information from the last National Census in 1986 and administrative data from other sources.

This landmark publication contains statistical tables in several categories ranging from population mobility to health, housing, education and language. The tables are accompanied by informative commentaries in each area, including a brief but fascinating item on the history of attempts to count the Aboriginal population since the European settlement of Australia.

DISTRIBUTION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1989



■ Aboriginal Community

• Other Aboriginal Settlement

Continued ...

Among facts of interest emerging from the publication are:

- In 1986, just 26 per cent of Aboriginal people spoke only English, while 46 per cent were at least bi-lingual, combining traditional languages with proficiency in English.
- In the Aboriginal population ages 15 years and over, 25 per cent were employed, compared with 65 per cent in the remainder of the Territory population.
- An equal percentage of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Territorians attend secondary school, despite the fact that all the Territory's high schools are located in urban areas, while most of the Aboriginal school population lives in rural areas.

The publication was produced by the Northern Territory office of the ABS with the assistance of Dr John Taylor, of the North Australia Research Unit.

For further information, order the publication Aboriginal People in the Northern Territory (4107.7), or contact Information Services (see page 10).

Tourist accommodation: capacity continues to increase

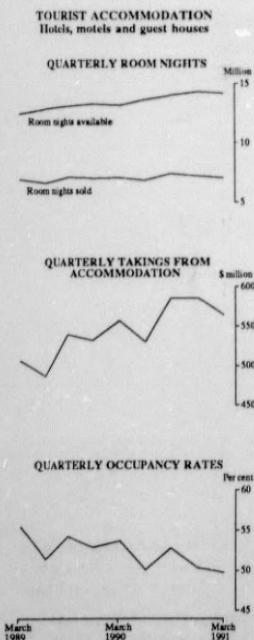
Between March quarter 1990 and March quarter 1991, the number of rooms available in hotels, motels and guest houses Australia wide increased by 7.0 per cent, with increases being recorded in each State and Territory.

However, because room nights occupied decreased by 0.5 per cent over the same period, the room occupancy rate fell substantially from 53.7 per cent to 49.7 per cent.

Rooms available in licensed hotels increased by 10.9 per cent while in motels and guest houses, the increase was 4.8 per cent. Nationally, guest arrivals decreased by 1.8 per cent, with only the ACT recording an increase. Average length of stay increased from 2.0 to 2.1 days.

Takings from accommodation increased by only 1.2 per cent from \$557 million to \$564 million, although the average takings per room night sold rose by 1.7 per cent from \$79 to \$80. During this same period, the Consumer Price Index (all groups), increased by 4.9 per cent.

Tourist accommodation Hotels, motels and guest houses



Year Book Australia

The 1991 edition of *Year Book Australia* is now available. This flagship ABS publication contains information and statistics on a wide range of interesting topics and issues. Some of the topics included are:

- industry, business and the economy;
- climate, geography and the environment;
- population and social conditions; and
- culture and recreation.

Year Book Australia is a vital reference source for businesses, educational institutions and households. It answers many questions including:

- When were women first admitted to Australian universities?
- What was the level of foreign investment in Australia last year?
- Which capital city in Australia is the windiest?
- In what year was the telephone introduced in Australia?
- How many ministries are there in the fourth Hawke Government?

In addition, in the 1991 edition contains special articles on:

- Safeguarding our Rainforest Heirlooms;
- The National Trusts of Australia;
- The Collection and Preservation of Australia's Documentary Heritage;
- Preservation of Rock Imagery.

Copies of *Year Book Australia* (1301.0) can be purchased from any ABS Bookshop.

Value of farm output down sharply in 1990-91

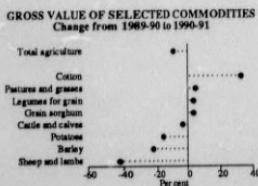
Preliminary estimates of the 1990-91 gross value of agricultural commodities produced in Australia indicate a decline of 9.9 per cent from the previous year to \$21,245.6 million.

Substantial decreases occurred in the value of a number of major commodities, including:

- wheat, down 29.4 per cent due to the collapse in the international market price;
- wool, down 19.4 per cent with the abolition of the reserve price scheme bringing lower prices; and
- sheep and lamb slaughterings, down 42.7 per cent with large offerings occurring because of the combined effects of an increase in flock size, the wool price collapse and a reduction in the live sheep export trade.

On the other hand, significant increases in gross value were recorded in some other agricultural commodities, in particular cotton (up 32.6%) and bananas (up 18.1%).

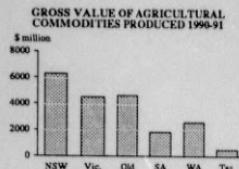
Continued ...



The New South Wales contribution (\$6,422.5 million) to the total gross Australian value was still the most significant of any State. However for the first time in a decade, the gross value of agricultural production for Queensland exceeded that for Victoria.

Also of interest was the change in importance during the 1980s between the gross value of livestock slaughterings and the gross value of livestock products, the latter having grown substantially and the former having declined, to the point where their relative contributions to total agricultural production have been reversed.

GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED 1989-91
\$ million



GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
\$ million

	1989-90	1990-91	Percentage change
Crops	9,876.3	9,003.6	-8.8
Livestock slaughterings	5,893.3	5,448.1	-7.6
Livestock products	7,806.7	6,793.9	-13.0
Total agriculture	23,585.1	21,245.6	-9.9

For further information, order the publication *Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary (7501.0)*, or contact Rick McGee on (06) 252 5356.

In brief ...

Mineral exploration

Petroleum exploration expenditure in March quarter 1991 totalled \$128.6 million; a decrease of 12.7 per cent on December quarter 1990. Expenditure on mineral exploration (other than for petroleum) for March quarter 1991 totalled \$125.7 million, \$37.5 million less than expenditure for December quarter 1990.

Source: *Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Australia, March Quarter 1991 (8412.0)*.

Industrial disputes

In May 1991 there were 114 disputes reported in progress involving 193,900 employees and the loss of 202,100 working days. The number of employees involved and working days lost have increased significantly since April 1991, from 22,800 and 30,300 respectively.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia, May 1991 (6321.0)*.

Gross domestic product: State accounts

State	1988-89	1989-90	Percentage change	Percentage share of total
New South Wales	119,661	129,297	8.1	34.7
Victoria	94,697	103,780	9.6	27.9
Queensland	49,913	55,052	10.3	14.8
South Australia	25,418	27,950	10.0	7.5
Western Australia	33,354	36,823	10.4	9.9
Tasmania	7,584	8,210	8.3	2.2
Northern Territory	3,619	4,036	11.5	1.1
Australian Capital Territory	6,540	7,024	7.4	1.9
Australia	340,786	372,172	9.2	100.0

Source: *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts 1989-90 (5220.0)*.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

All the week's releases: 14 to 20 August

General

- Statistics Weekly, 15 August 1991 (1318.0, \$4.00)
- NIF-10S Model Data Base Manual, June Qtr 1991 (Available on Magnetic Tape, Floppy Disk and Microfiche) (1340.0; free)
- Economic Indicators, Qld, August 1991 (1307.3; \$6.00)
- Territory Business Indicators, August 1991 (1307.7; \$4.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, June Qtr 1991 (5206.0; \$20.00)
- Budget Related Paper: National Income and Expenditure, 1990-91 (\$213.0; \$10.00)
- Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk, June Qtr 1991 (5228.0; \$86.50)
- Balance of Payments, Aust., June Qtr 1991 (5302.0; \$20.00)
- Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, June Qtr 1991 (5435.0; \$18.00)
(Previously: Imports, Aust.)

- Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1992, June Qtr 1991 Survey, Preliminary (\$525.0; \$10.00)

Labour statistics and prices

- Labour Mobility, Aust., February 1991 (6209.0; \$11.50)
- Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Aust., May 1990 (6306.0; \$17.00)
- Industrial Disputes, Aust., May 1991 (6321.0; \$7.00)
- Major Labour Costs, Aust., 1989-90 (6348.0; \$18.00)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., July 1991 (6410.0; \$5.00)

Agriculture

- Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, June 1991 (7204.3; \$4.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Building Approvals: Small Area Statistics, Qld, 1990-91 (8733.3; \$10.00)
- Dwelling Unit Comencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, May 1991 (8741.3; \$10.00)
- Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division, July 1991 (8732.5; \$3.50)
- Building Approvals, Tas., June 1991 (8731.6; \$8.50)

Transport

- Road Traffic Accidents, Qld, 1990 (9406.3; \$14.00) — *final issue*
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, June 1991 (9303.5; \$7.00)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., June 1991 (9303.6; \$5.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 3 September 1991

August

- [22] Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, June 1991 (5609.0; \$10.00)
-
- Export Price Index, Australia, June 1991 (6405.0; \$7.50)
- [26] Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, June 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)
-
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, June 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)
- [27] Foreign Investment, Australia, June Quarter 1991, Preliminary (5307.0; \$10.00)
-
- Company Profits, Australia, June Quarter 1991 (5651.0; \$10.00)
-
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, June 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)
-
- Manufacturing Production, Australia, July 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)
-
- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, July 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
20 August 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE Seasonally adjusted July 1991									
Australia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New South Wales	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Victoria	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Queensland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
South Australia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Australia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tasmania	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
0 4 8 12	Per cent								
Statistics Weekly 22 August 1991									

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

The latest ...

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Key national indicators - consolidated to 20 August 1991

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 91 " 62,148	92,362 4,577	+ 1.2 + 1.0	- 1.2 - 2.4
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 91 " 4,808	6,304 12,756	- 8.9 - 8.2	- 13.4 - 13.4
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 91	" 12,756	n.a.	n.a.	- 18.5
Retail turnover	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	June 91 " 14,564.1	7,052.1 15,045.8	+ 0.1 + 1.0	+ 1.9 + 2.2
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	June 91	42,518	42,210	+ 4.0	+ 15.6
Dwelling unit approvals	"	June 91	10,310	10,215	+ 9.8	+ 7.2
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,675	1,722	+ 2.0	+ 14.5
Value of total building work done	"	Mar. qtr 91	6,021	6,653	+ 5.1	+ 12.0
Manufacturers' sales — current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	3,789 22,162	4,112 23,633	+ 6.9 + 1.5	+ 15.0 + 7.0
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 91	34,850	n.a.	n.a.	- 6.2
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	July 91	7,624.1	7,622.7	+ 1.1	+ 3.9
Unemployment rate †	%	"	9.5	9.8	0.5	2.9
Participation rate †	"	"	62.4	62.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
Job vacancies	'000	May 91	25.1	25.7	+ 13.4	+ 49.8
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.1	1.1	+ 5.9	+ 18.8
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 91	214.4	n.a.	0.1	3.4
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	May 91	117.8	n.a.	0.2	- 0.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	May 91	110.8	n.a.	0.3	1.8
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	2,266	2,762	+ 29.1	+ 32.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 91	560.20	n.a.	+ 0.7	4.9
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	June 91	10.50	n.a.	0.15	+ 4.60
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	11.15	n.a.	0.40	+ 2.25
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	June 91	4,407	4,503	0.9	14.1
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,574	3,971	3.7	2.0
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	833	532	+ 16.0	885.2
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	488	295	+ 23.0	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	+ 720	+ 877	+ 12.0	+ 46.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 91	n.a.	100.2	+ 1.2	+ 5.2
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 91	133,269	n.a.	2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	178,372	n.a.	3.4	7.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
SUS	per \$A	June 91	0.7604	n.a.	+ 0.8	+ 2.3
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	59.2	n.a.	+ 0.3	+ 3.1
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Dec. 90	17.2	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Mar. 91	189	175	+ 1.6	+ 3.3

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points.

n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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